

SECTION ONE – BEGINNING YOUR VISIT

Chapter Two – Getting Started

Driving Information for Tour Guides, Bus Operators

Park Loop Road and Mount Desert Island Maps

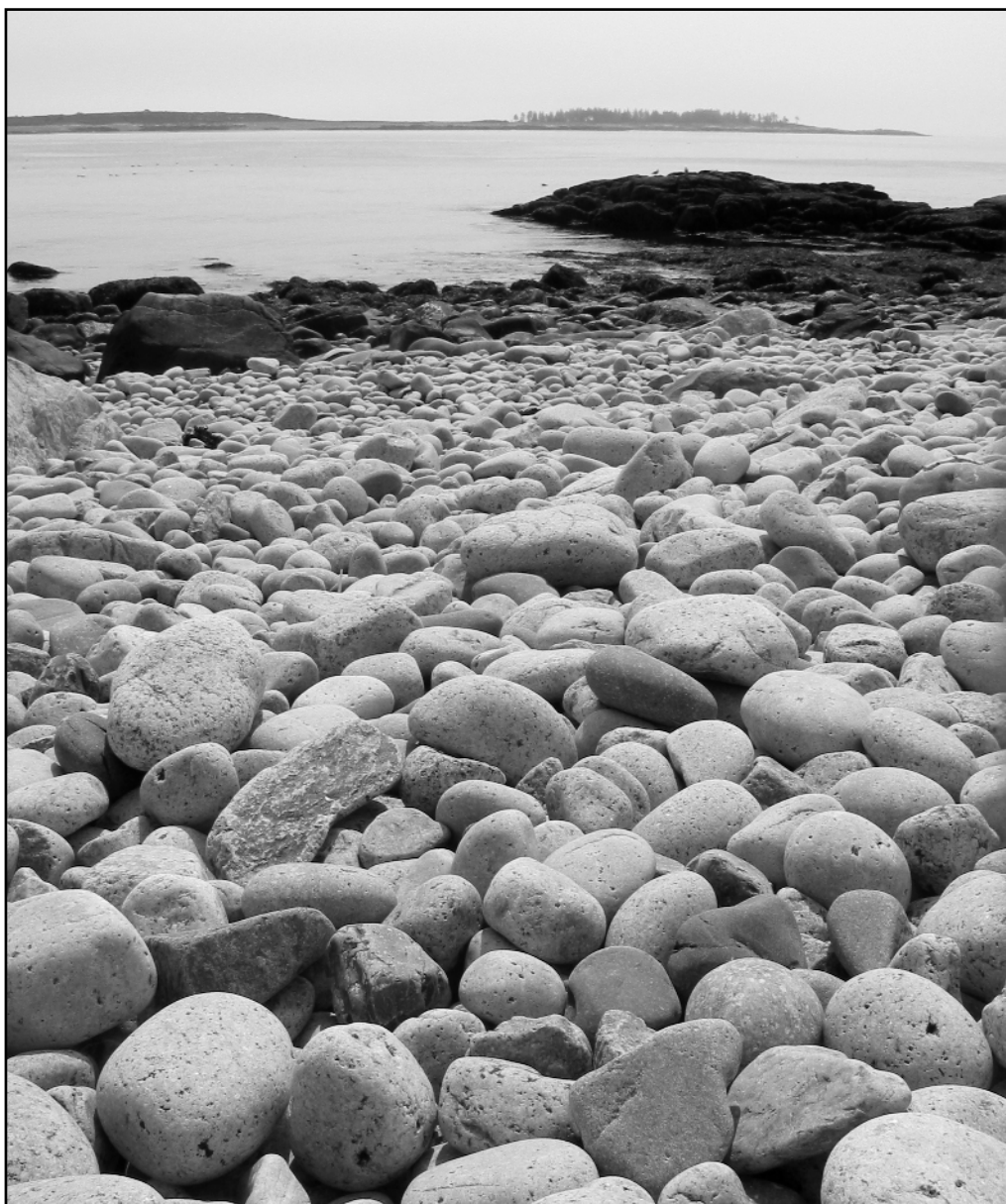
Planning Your Group's Visit

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An Introduction to Acadia National Park for Groups – Background Information/Narrative





Driving Information for Tour Guides, Bus Operators

DRIVING REGULATIONS

- Maine State Law requires seatbelts to be worn at all times.
- Parking is allowed in the right hand lane of the one-way section of the Park Loop Road, except where posted.
- Park Loop Road speed limit is a maximum of 35 mph; some areas 25 mph.
- State route speed limits vary. Please follow them.
- No buses or recreational vehicles on Sargent Drive.
- Stanley Brook Bridge clearance 10'9".

Mileage information in the Guide's Guide for:

Chapter 5-Chapter 10

The Park Loop Road and Cadillac Mountain Road is taken from the start of the Park Loop Road at the visitor center and listed in the order of driving the entire loop and ending on the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

Chapter 11

Park areas on State Route 233 and State Route 198/State Route 3 are taken from the junction of State Route 233 and State Route 3 in Bar Harbor.

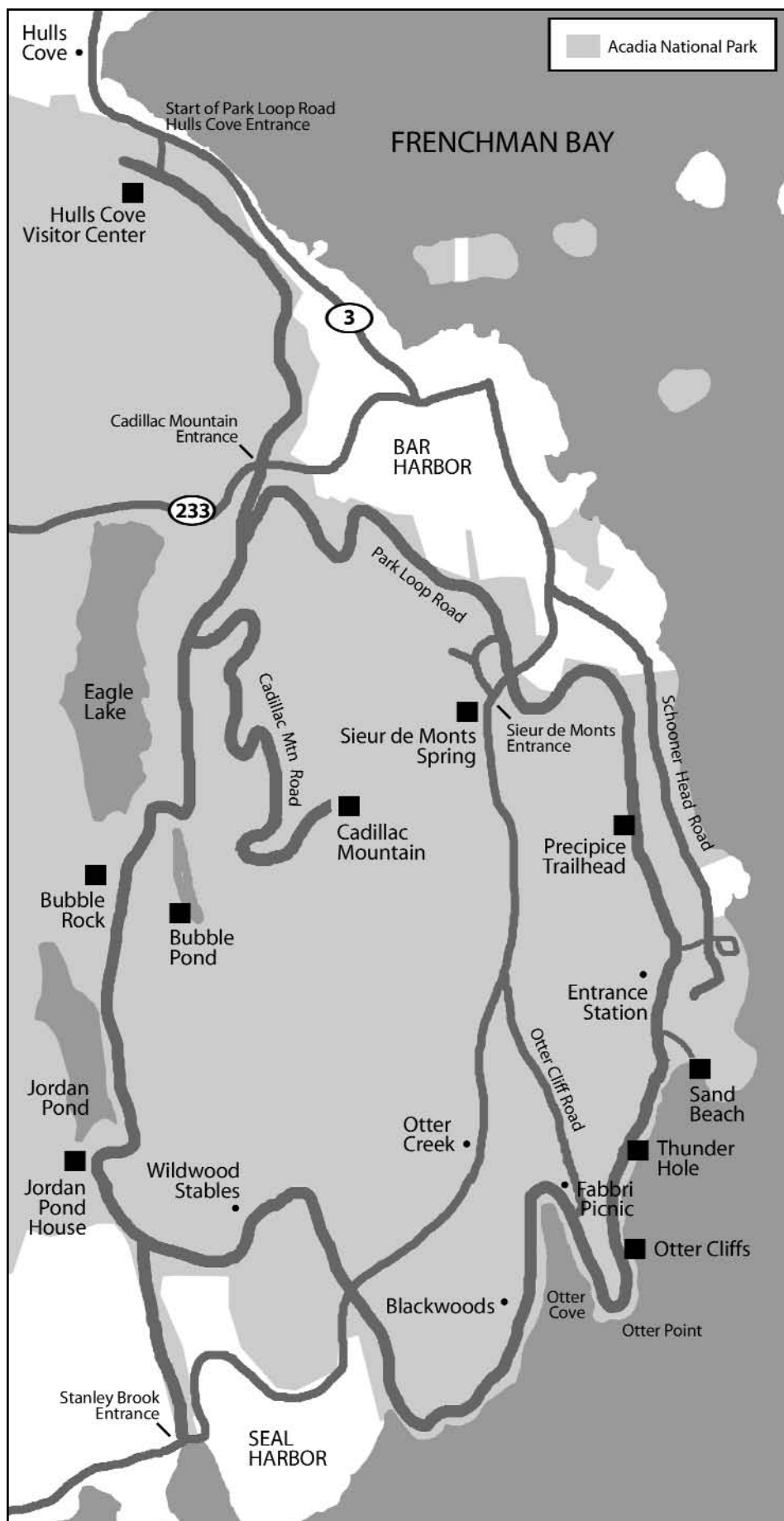
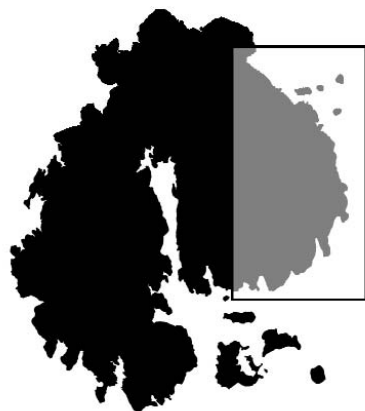
Chapter 13

Acadia's west side is taken from the intersection of State Route 102 and State Route 198 in Somesville.

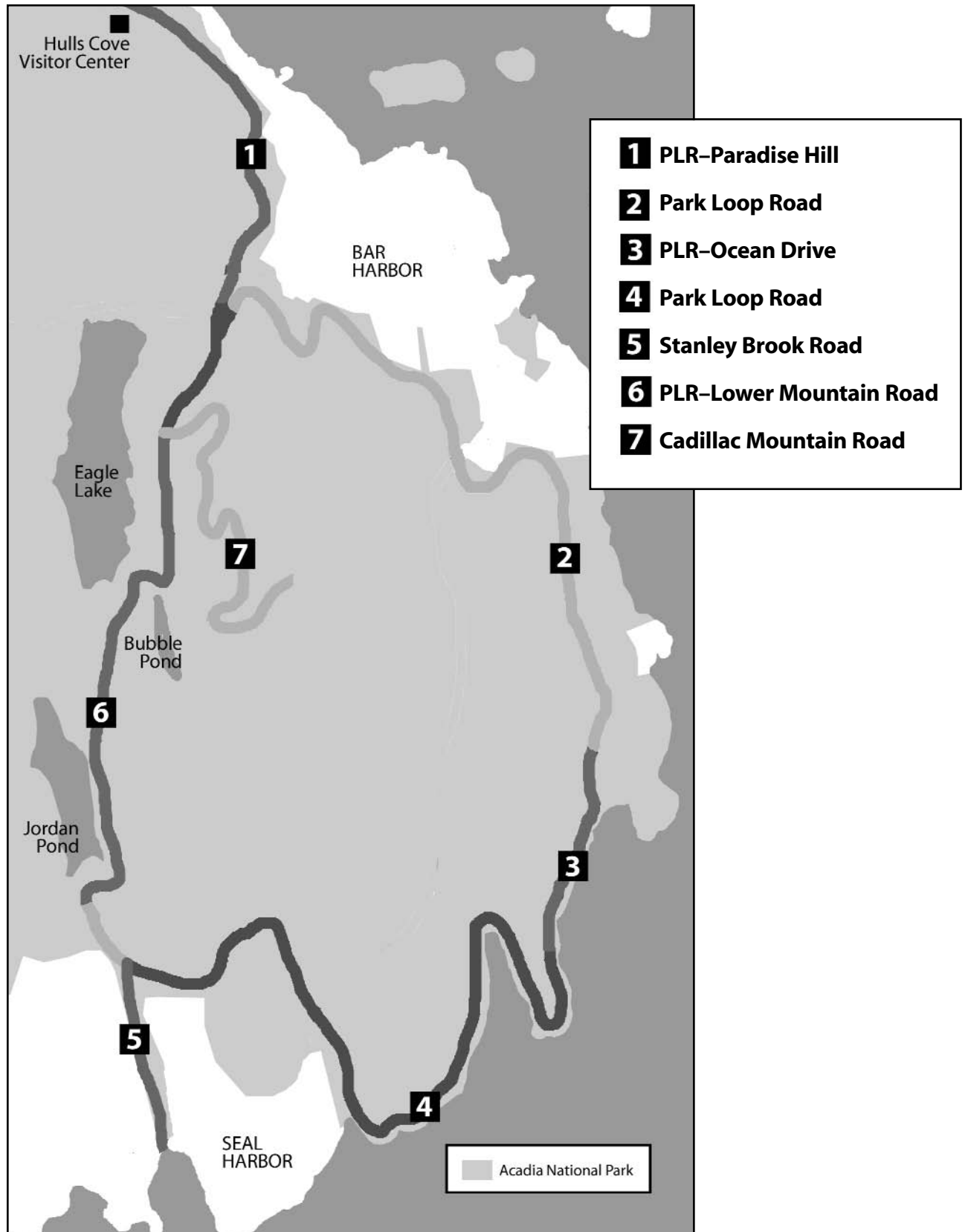
MILEAGES

Ellsworth to:	Mount Desert Island (Trenton Bridge)	10 miles
Trenton Bridge to:	Hulls Cove Visitor Center	8 miles
	Bar Harbor	10.2 miles
	Somesville	2.7 miles
	Northeast Harbor	8.9 miles
	Southwest Harbor	7.7 miles
	Seawall Campground	12.6 miles
	Bass Harbor	10 miles
Bar Harbor to:	Blackwoods Campground	5 miles
Hulls Cove Visitor Center to:	Sieur de Monts Spring	5.6 miles
	Sand Beach	8.7 miles
	Cadillac Mountain Road (direct)	3.5 miles
	Jordan Pond (direct)	7.5 miles

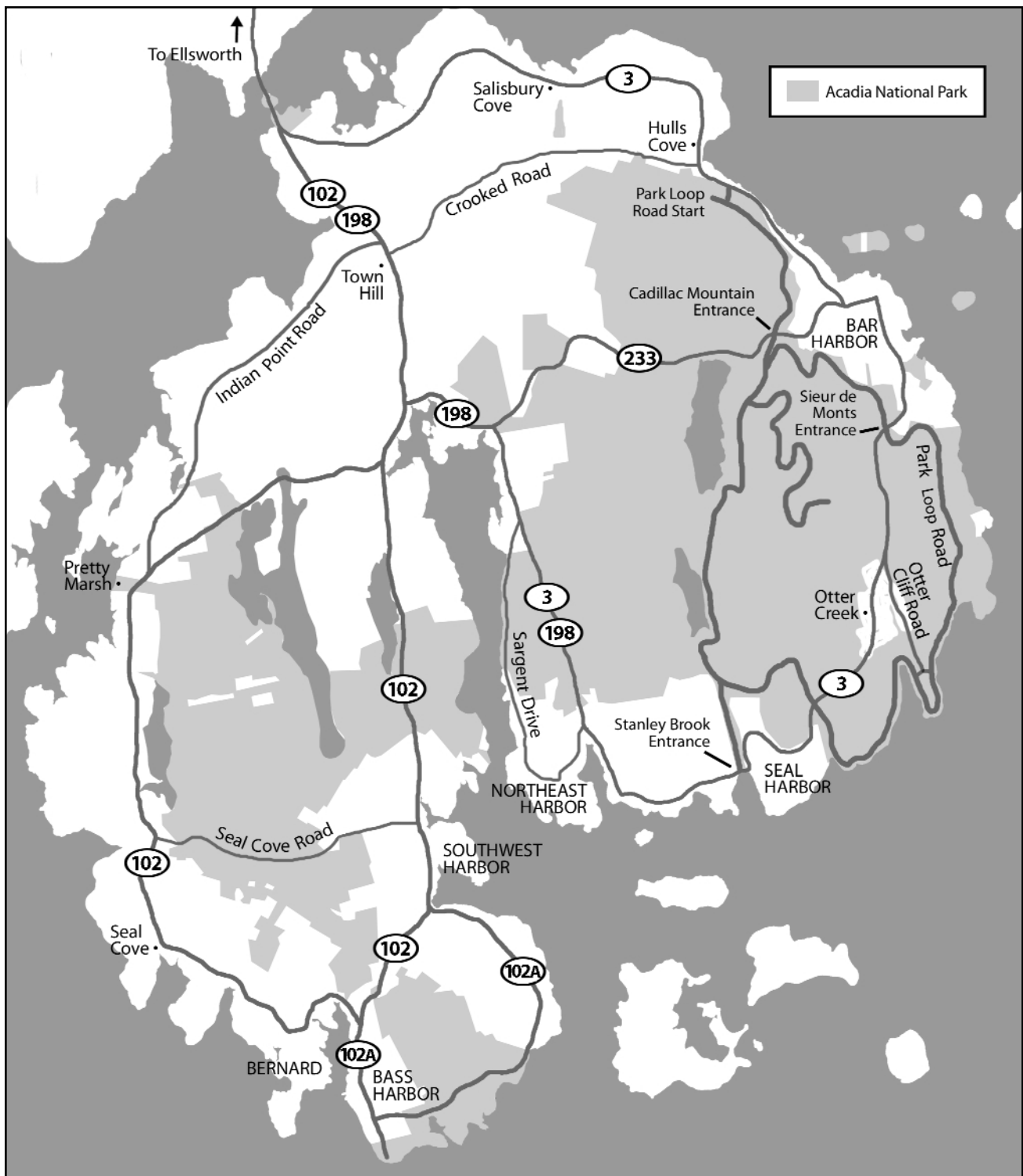
Park Loop Road Highlights



Park Loop Road (PLR) Section Names



Mount Desert Island Driving Map





Planning Your Group's Visit

Knowing your group and the purpose of your visit to Acadia National Park will help to plan a trip that meets the needs of the participants and protects Acadia. Please familiarize yourself with Acadia National Park – A Park Like No Other (page 1-3), *Leave No Trace* guidelines for protecting the park (page 1-21), and important park information (page 1-25). Contact park headquarters at 288-3338 to check on any current closures or new policies.

KNOW YOUR GROUP

Training staff to provide information? Sections specific to park sites and drives in this guide offer background information for training and appropriate fact sheets to give your staff. Training staff about Acadia National Park makes their job easier to educate the public and thus protect the park.

Is your group interested in recreational activities? Review the *Leave No Trace* principles on page 1-21. Be sure that your group follows them. Check the fact sheets in the recreation section of this guide about hiking trails, bicycling, and other activities. To turn a recreational outing into an opportunity for education, familiarize yourself with the fact sheets that are pertinent to the area you are visiting.

Are you traveling with children? Look for the Kid symbol (K) for specific park areas good for children. The educator section of this guide has some worksheets for working with children in suggested park areas. Familiarize yourself with ways to help protect the park and please impart this information to the children. Self-guiding trails (brochures included in this guide) are a great way to involve children in learning about different park habitats and history. The fact sheets can help you as a leader to educate your group about the importance of Acadia National Park. Consider contacting the park's education coordinator at (207) 288-8822 before your arrival to answer any questions you may have.

Are you leading a bus tour? Each chapter specific to park sites provides driving directions, mileage, time estimations, and narratives of park highlights that can be used as a script. Familiarize yourself with the park map and park fees in advance. Know where the restrooms are located. Choose stopping points that will handle a large group easily and quickly. These areas are indicated in each section of the guide with the symbol (LG). For more in-depth information, review the fact sheets.

Are you leading a small group interested in learning about the cultural and/or natural history of the park? Use the fact sheets to provide details about Acadia National Park. Know the interests of your group and depending on the time you have, focus on only a few subjects.



Creating Lesson Plans Using the *Guide's Guide*

If you are training staff about Acadia National Park or are interested in teaching your group more about the park's history or environment, please review these guidelines for planning lessons.

1. First things first: read the following information

It is important that you as the leader or trainer are familiar with the following:

Acadia National Park - A Park Like No Other: page 1-3

About this Guide: page 1-7

Planning Your Group's Visit: page 1-17

Leave No Trace Principles: page 1-21

Acadia National Park Regulations: page 1-39

Consider making copies of *Acadia National Park - A Park Like No Other* and *Leave No Trace Principles* to give to your group.

2. To plan: answer some questions first

What are your objectives? Write down a few objectives for what you would like to teach your group. Each site-specific area in the *At A Glance* section explains the significance of the site, some fast facts about the area, and how to help protect that section of the park. This section can be used to help develop your objectives and learning outcomes.

Are you working with a large or small group? Large groups are best suited for places like: Cadillac Mountain summit; Sand Beach; Ocean Trail; Jordan Pond area; Carriage Roads.

What areas in the park are best suited for your objectives?

Some are more obvious than others—if you're teaching about Jordan Pond, that's the best location. Other options:

Shoreline Features: Ship Harbor Trail

Wildlife: Park Loop Road from Sieur de Monts Spring to the Precipice

Water Quality and Air Quality: Combination trip to Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain

Acadia's Plants: Sieur de Monts Spring; Acadia Wild Gardens; Jesup Path; Beginning area of Dorr Mountain trail

Geology: Sand Beach and the Great Head Trail

Acadia's Islands: Bar Island

Coastal Maine History: Islesford Historical Museum; Carroll Homestead

Park History: Sieur de Monts Spring

What materials do you need to read to provide appropriate information for your group? In each section on park sites is a list of helpful fact sheets and field guides as well as information in the appendix. Read these and if desired, make copies for your group.

3. Outline what you would like to say

Begin by reading the background information/narrative for the area that you will be covering. Once you are familiar with this, read the suggested helpful information listed in each section. From these two sources, outline what you will do with your group. The narratives included in each park site section are suggestions for information presentation. They can serve as a guideline or as a touring script.

**4. Review the Background Information/Narrative for
“An Introduction to Acadia National Park” on page 1-23**

This is an optional script for leaders to use for introducing the park to their group.

5. If possible, visit the planned site so you can become familiar with the area

Each site-specific section includes logistic information (*Before You Go - What to Know*). Review these so you can be familiar with what the site offers in the way of facilities, highlights, etc.



Planning Your Trip – A Checklist

- Familiarize yourself with the beginning of this guide and appropriate sections for your trip.
- If needed, contact the park or other appropriate information centers to answer any further questions you may have or to have additional informative brochures mailed to you.
- If desired, acquire detailed hiking maps, guides, and other books through mail-order at Eastern National or purchase at park visitor centers. (See appendix for helpful books)
- Make arrangements at specific locations for your group, i.e. Jordan Pond House, Wildwood Stables, and the Abbe Museum.
- Prep any handouts or materials you would like your group to have.
- Prepare a first aid kit, and if necessary, have appropriate medical release forms.
- Know emergency numbers for the area and/or participants.
- Know where the restrooms are.
- Be sure your group knows what they are individually responsible for i.e. snacks, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.
- Check weather conditions. For general weather guidelines, see Appendix A.
- Be sure your group knows what to wear—layers that can be shed or added as necessary is best. Often mittens, rain gear, and a hat are necessary. Good appropriate shoes are especially important. Sneakers are adequate for most trails. Shoes with non-slippery soles are a must for shoreline exploration.
- No matter your group, please impress upon them the principles of *Leave No Trace*, important outdoor ethics to follow to help protect Acadia National Park. Remember that removing anything except litter from a national park is prohibited. Even a small periwinkle shell might be a home for a hermit crab.



Protecting Your Park – *Leave No Trace* Principles

Education leads to appreciation and appreciation leads to protection. By providing valid reasons to your group to respect Acadia's mission through appropriate behavior, you are playing an important role in the on-going preservation of Acadia National Park. This in turn furthers understanding of the park's fragile nature and will lead to the achievement of park management objectives.

Following *Leave No Trace* principles when visiting the park assures that you and your group are part of the solution and a partner for protection. The *Leave No Trace* program is a nationwide initiative by federal land agencies utilizing principles put forth by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). The main objective of the program is to reduce the evidence of park visits thereby minimizing the adverse effects on local flora and fauna.

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Plan ahead and prepare what your group will do. If you need further information, or are unsure if an activity is appropriate, please contact the park to have questions answered.
- Consider your group size. Larger groups should go to areas that can handle them rather than areas that can only handle smaller groups. Divide your group if it is large. For example, a group of 20 youth with 4 counselors might consider making them separate groups of 6 rather than a group of 24. Remember, good maps are essential.

CAMP AND TRAVEL ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Remain on established hiking trails and refrain from stepping on fragile plants while enjoying Acadia's rocky summits.
- Bicycle use is limited to park roads and certain carriage roads. Bicycling on hiking trails is prohibited.
- Consider that Blackwoods and Seawall campgrounds host thousands of people a year. It's easy to see the impact over time if everyone ignored some key requests such as: no cutting of trees or limbs, use appropriate bathroom facilities, dispose of trash appropriately, camp on the provided campsite.
- Backpacking is prohibited in Acadia. The park's small size could not accommodate the potential number of interested backpackers.
- Acadia's jigsaw boundary line means private property and federal lands are joined. If traveling through private land, please respect the landowner's rights.

PACK IT IN — PACK IT OUT

- Do not bury trash as animals will dig it out. Even if it is biodegradable, peanut shells, orange peels, egg shells, etc. are unsightly and not good for wildlife.
- If you find trash left by others, please pack it out.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF WHAT YOU CAN'T PACK OUT

- If a restroom is not available, urinate far from the trail.
- If you can't carry out human waste, a small "cathole" six to eight inches deep, 200 feet from the trail and any water sources is the preferred method for burial of feces. Pack out toilet paper.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Do not remove rocks, shells, plants, flowers, cultural artifacts, etc. from the park. Those who choose to do so affect the landscape of the park. For the enjoyment of all, please leave things where you find them.
- Bring cameras so you can take photo memories home.
- Take a mental picture. This works especially well with children who don't quite understand why they can't take something.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife by refraining from chasing, stalking, and especially not feeding animals.
- Dogs must be on a leash no longer than six feet. They are not allowed on the six ladder trails, the two sand beaches, climbing areas, or seabird islands.
- Keep it quiet. Please reconsider the use of modern conveniences such as portable radios and tape players. If using cell phones or GPS devices use them discreetly.
- Please do not build new cairns or create "rock art." Extra cairns only lead to hiking confusion, and "rock art" takes away from the natural beauty of the landscape. Rocks removed from thin mountain soils contribute to further erosion.

USE FIRE RESPONSIBLY

- Open fires are not allowed in the park except in designated picnic areas and campgrounds where grills or fire pits are available.
- Be sure the fire is put out upon leaving.
- Wood may not be collected in the campgrounds.



An Introduction to Acadia National Park for Groups Background Information/Narrative

NOTE: The following is a suggested narrative for starting any trip to Acadia National Park whether your group is traveling by tour bus, hiking the park trails, or enjoying the carriage roads. Teaching your group about all that Acadia encompasses will instill in them a greater appreciation for this park and the National Park System.

Acadia National Park, established as the first national park east of the Mississippi, is one of over 380 units administered by the National Park Service. Acadia's mission, like all other national park sites, is "(to) preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources... for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations." This visit today highlights a portion of Acadia's exceptional landscape well worthy of that protection. To aid in the National Park Service's mission, park staff request that you remember to *Leave No Trace* by:

Remain on established trails.

Step lightly to avoid trampling fragile plants.

Respect wildlife with quiet voices and no feeding.

Leave what we find for all to enjoy.

Pack in-pack out (dispose of all litter properly).

Acadia's rounded granite mountains, forested valleys, large lakes, small ponds, marshes, rocky headlands, and quiet coves await discovery in this small national park. These environments shelter over 1100 plant species, 40 mammal species, over 300 birds and a multitude of smaller creatures.

Certainly, recreational opportunities abound. Strenuous mountain climbs and leisurely walks await those who venture from their vehicle. Carriage roads for use by walkers, bikers, or horses make Acadia accessible for all. Many lakes and ponds are popular for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. Boat cruises take advantage of the ocean environment.

Visitors today are a current page in the history of this land. Pre-historic people and the historic Wabanaki Indians knew this land long before Samuel Champlain named it the "Isles des Monts Deserts." After 150 years of quarreling between the French and English for ownership of North America, settlers came in earnest taking advantage of the ocean's proximity and island's generous resources. The mid-1800s brought visitors who saw those same resources as a spring of inspiration and respite. Some worked to create a sanctuary that became Acadia National Park.

As part of the three million people who visit Acadia each year, and like those who came before us, we will leave with our own unforgettable impression of Acadia National Park.

After giving this park introduction, review your itinerary with your group. Explain time expectations, safety concerns, and any other information you feel is necessary for them to know.